



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 1917-A (Senator Ritchie) / Assembly Bill 4475-A (Assemblyman Magee)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES OF FARMING OPERATIONS

Date: 1/26/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, urges you to support the above referenced legislation. This bill would provide much needed funding to help the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) better educate farmers on how to comply with the many complex regulations and laws that the agency oversees.

Farmers are fully committed to protecting the water and air resources in their community by spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, to ensure regulatory compliance with extremely stringent environmental regulations.

While it can happen that a farm makes a mistake or falls victim to difficult weather conditions, any fines generated from such situations are deposited in the state's General Fund, where they help no one. This legislation would allow DEC to reinvest such fines for violations into training and educational programs for farmers regarding environmental regulations.

By using this revenue to provide education for farmers on how to comply with environmental regulations and statutes, the state will improve environmental compliance, while setting farmers up for better economic attainment.

As a result, your support of this legislation is requested.